

Parasites. Two species, *Sympiesis sericeicornis* (Nees) and *S. gordius* (Walker) (Eulophidae) have so far been identified.

Distribution. At present known in Britain only from the West End of London and northern Surrey, where it is plentiful at Kew Gardens. Southern and Central Europe, but currently extending its range northwards and westwards.

Acknowledgements

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References

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A note on the life history of *Blastobasis decolorella* (Woll.) (Lep.: Blastobasidae)

In October 1990 I was searching for larvae of *Cydia aurana* Fab. in seedheads of *Heracleum sphondylium* at Bickley, Kent. Almost every seedhead contained larvae but, all being of a pinkish colour, they were clearly not those of *aurana*, which is white. Many of the larvae had made neat, round holes in the stem below the seed heads and were resting inside the stems.

As the identity was uncertain, I split the larvae into two batches: some stems and seed heads were placed in a linen bag and overwintered in a shady place in the garden. The remainder were put in a flower pot containing some earth and leaf litter, and left outside for the winter.

The linen bag was brought indoors at the end of April. On opening the bag I found the larvae had spun cocoons in the linen folds, but these contained only dead larvae — possibly killed by some severe spring frosts. The flower pot was left undisturbed and the first moth — a male *Blastobasis decolorella* — appeared on 6th June 1991, with others on subsequent days. — D. O'KEEFFE, 50 Hazelmere Road, Petts Wood, Kent.